

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0579

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UN

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: REVIEW OF POST'S ACTIONS-MOZAMBIQUE

REF: STATE 115833

1. SINCE FORMAL OPENING OF EMBASSY MAPUTO SIX MONTHS AGO, EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH GPRM FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND OTHER SENIOR POLICY MAKERS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY LIMITED AND EXPANSION OF GPRM-U.S. RELATIONS HAS PROGRESSED SLOWLY. ON THOSE OCCASIONS WHEN EMBOFFS HAVE MET WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WE HAVE CONCENTRATED ON TRYING TO IMPROVE U.S. MOZAMBIQUE BILATERAL RELATIONS AND RESOLVE THORNY QUESTION OF SECURITY RELEASE OF CONSULAR ACCESS TO DETAINED AMERICAN MISSIONARIES. ALTHOUGH IN PAST THREE WEEKS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MEET MORE FREQUENTLY WITH SOME TOP GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, PREDOMINANT NEED TO FOCUS ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS HAS LEFT VIRTUALLY NO TIME TO TALK ABOUT MAJOR, IMPORTANT MULTILATERAL ISSUES OUTLINED REFTTEL, EMBASSY PLANS, AS OUR RELATIONS AND ACCESS TO KEY FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS IMPROVE, TO OUTLINE USG POSITION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES SUCH AS KOREA, MIDDLE EAST PUERTO RICO AND INDIAN OCEAN, AS WE MOVE TOWARD 31ST UNGA, THIS WILL BE ONE OF OUR MAJOR OBJECTIVES.

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2. DESPITE LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES TO OBTAIN FIRSTHAND VIEWS OF

GPRM ON MULTILATERAL TOPICS, WE HAVE REASONABLY GOOD IMPRESSION OF HOW GPRM WILL BEHAVE AT NAM. IN GENERAL, GPRM CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE ONE OF MOST MILITANT A NAM. SINCE INDEPENDENCE, GPRM HAS ALIGNED ITSELF WITH "PROGRESSIVE" STATES IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO "EVILS" OF IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM AND CAPITALISM. MOZAMBIKAN PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL, VICE PRESIDENT OF FRELIMO MARCELINO DOS SANTOS AND FOREIGN MINISTER JOAQUIM CHISSANO HAVE FREQUENTLY LASHED OUT AT NON-SOCIALIST AND NON-PROGRESSIVE WESTERN STATES FOR CONTINUING TO IMPOSE NEO-COLONIAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DOMINATION OVER THIRD WORLD AND FOR REFUSING TO SUPPORT EFFORTS OF "OPPRESSED PEOPLE" TO GAIN FREEDOM.

3. GPRM'S SPECIFIC VIEWS ON ISSUES RAISED IN REFTEL FOLLOW:

A. KOREA: MOZAMBIQUE FAVORS WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA AND REUNIFICATION OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA UNDER CONTROL OF THE "PROGRESSIVE" NORTHERN LEADERSHIP. IN HIS SPEECH BEFORE THE 30TH UNGA, FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO SUPPORTED KOREAN RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY NON-ALIGNED FORMIN CONFERENCE IN LIMA, URGED REUNIFICATION OF KOREA AND CALLED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS AND DISOLUTION OF UN COMMAND. IN A GATHERING BEFORE THE MOZAMBIQUE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN JANUARY, PRESIDENT MACHEL REAFFIRMED THIS POSITION, SAYING THAT "THE PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE SUPPORT RESOLUTELY THE STRUGGLE OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE SOUTH AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIALIST NORTH."

B. MIDDLE EAST: LIKE MOST AFRICAN STATES, MOZAMBIQUE'S ROMANCE WITH THE ARABS HAS COOLED. GPRM WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH THE SMALL AMOUNT OF SANCTIONS OFFSET ASSISTANCE IT RECEIVED FROM ARABS DURING DAKAR AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT MEETING. NEVERTHELESS, GPRM CLEARLY REMAINS VERY HOSTILE TOWARDS ISRAELI POSITION IN MIDDLE EAST. PRESIDENT MACHEL CONTINUES TO REFER TO ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION OF ARAB TERRITORIES AS "ZIONIST AGGRESSION AND IMPERIALISM." AT LAST YEAR'S UNGA, CHISSANO OUTLINED MOZAMBIQUE'S POSITION: "ISRAEL MUST RECOGNIZE THE REALITY OF THE INJUSTICE SHE HAS BEEN PERPETRATING AGAINST HER ARAB NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY, AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE." GPRM SUPPORTS SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, BELIEVES THAT ISRAEL SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM TERRITORIES IT OCCUPIED IN 1967 AND CONSIDER PLO THE

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LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. ALTHOUGH NEITHER MACHEL NOR CHISSANO HAVE TO KNOWLEDGE OF EMBASSY INDICATED WHETHER THEY FAVOR RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM WITHIN THE UN CONTEXT OR BY "STEP-BY-STEP" APPROACH, THEY WOULD PROBABLY SUPPORT THE FORMER IN DEFERENCE TO WISHES OF "PROGRESSIVE" ARAB STATES AND PLO.

C. PUERTO RICO: AS FAR AS EMBASSY AWARE, GPRM LEADERS HAVE

NEVER PUBLICLY COMMENTED ON PUERTO RICAN ISSUE. HOWEVER, LOCAL PRESS HAS FREQUENTLY PRINTED ARTICLES CONDEMNING U.S. RELATIONSHIP WITH PUERTO RICO AND SUPPORTING SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PEOPLES OF THAT ISLAND. ALTHOUGH LOCAL PRESS IS NOT GOVERNMENT-OWNED IT GENERALLY MIRRORS GOVERNMENT THINKING. EMBASSY BELIEVES FROM OTHER POSITIONS GPRM HAS TAKEN, GPRM WILL SUPPORT HARD LINE ON PUERTO RICO. BECAUSE OF CUBA'S SUPPORT FOR MPLA IN ANGOLA, GPRM CAN BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW HAVANA'S LEAD ON MOST LATIN AMERICAN ISSUES.

D. INDIAN OCEAN: GPRM IS VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT BIG POWER ACTIVITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. IT BELIEVES THAT THE INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD BE A ZONE OF PEACE, FREE OF BIG POWER RIVALRY AND THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR CONFLICT. IN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS, GPRM LEADERS HAVE ESPOUSED THIS LINE, FREQUENTLY CITING THEIR CONCERN ABOUT AMERICAN PRESENCE AT DIEGO GARCIA. IN 1976 NEW YEAR'S REVIEW OF MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, PRESIDENT MACHEL SAID THAT "AGAINST UNANIMOUS WISHES OF COUNTRIES ALONG INDIAN OCEAN, FOREIGN BASED AGGRESSION HAS BEEN INSTALLED. THE INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR ARMS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE SPREADING OF BASES IN MAYOTTE, DIEGO GARCIA AND DJIBOUTI NEITHER CORRESPONDS TO THE INTERESTS OF THE COASTAL STATES, NOR THOSE OF HUMANITY. THESE BASES THREATEN THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE ZONE." IN EARLY MARCH, FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF CRITICIZED THE GROWING AMERICAN PRESENCE AT DIEGO GARCIA. ALTHOUGH CHISSANO ALSO TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO CRITICIZE RUSSIAN NAVAL ACTIVITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL, ANY EVEN-HANDED CRITICISM OF ALL BIG POWER INVOLVEMENT IN AREA HAS BEEN LIMITED TO PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS, AND HAS NOT BEEN REFLECTED IN OFFICIAL PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS. BECAUSE OF ITS CLOSE TIES WITH USSR AND PRESIDENT MACHEL'S ADMIRATION FOR SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE, IT UNLIKELY GPRM WILL VIEW SOVIET PRESENCE AT BERBERA AS A THREAT TO PEACE IN THE AREA.

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4. GPRM'S LEADERS ARE IDEOLOGICALLY COMMITTED TO "PROGRESSIVE" SOLUTIONS TO MOST MULTILATERAL ISSUES. ON PROBLEMS WHICH THEY ARE FAMILIAR OR HAVE A STAKE (E.G. INDIAN OCEAN, NAMIBIA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA) THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE A LEADING, DOCTRINAIRE POSITION, AND WILL EXPECT SUPPORT FROM REST OF THE NON-ALIGNED STATES. IN LESS FAMILIAR AREAS (E.G. KOREA AND MIDDLE EAST) THEY WILL FOLLOW LEAD OF OTHER RADICAL SOCIALIST THIRD WORLD STATES.

5. EMBASSY DOUBTS IT WILL BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE GPRM LEADERS TO CHANGE THEIR OPINIONS ON ANY OF MAJOR MULTILATERAL TOPICS MENTIONED ABOVE. HOWEVER, WHEN OPPORTUNITIES EXIST, EMBASSY WILL OUTLINE U.S. POSITIONS ON ALL THESE SUBJECTS.

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